GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:687
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
SHARE OF ATOMIC POWER GENERATION
Jatiya Dr. Satyanarayan

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total power generation in the country and the share of atomic power generation in it;

(b) the details of action plan for atomic power generation;

(c) the sources from where nuclear fuel are obtained for atomic power generation and the quantity of fuel supplied to each plant alongwith per unit cost of atomic power generation;and

(d) the status of availability and use of domestic nuclear fuel for atomic power generation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER`S OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) The total electricity generation in the country in the year 2007-08 was 7,04,469 Million Units with a nuclear share of about 2.4%.

(b) The present nuclear power capacity of 4120 MWe will reach 7280 MWe by the year 2011 on progressive completion of projects under construction.XI plan proposals envisage start of work on eight indigenous pressurized Heavy Water Reactors of 700 MWe each and ten imported Light Water Reactors, each of about 1000 MWe and above.

(c) Of the 4120 MWe capacity in operation, 320 MWe (Tarapur Atomic Power Station Units 1&2) is fuelled by imported low enriched uranium (LEU), while the remaining 3800 MWe capacity comprising of Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) uses indigenous natural uranium,supplied by the Uranium Corporation of India Limited from its mines in Jharkhand.LEU for TAPS 1&2 is imported from different countries.The average tariff,including cost of generation,return on equity etc. of nuclear power in 2007-08 was Rs. 2.28/kWh.

(d) Currently,there is a demand-supply mismatch in respect of indigenous natural uranium.However,this is temporary and the situation is expected to improve with the opening of new mines.